

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus for scribing tile comprising:

a scribe member;

a tile engagement member;

5 an extension member, the extension member connecting the scribe member to the tile engagement member, the extension member being movably connected to the tile engagement member; and

a locking member, the locking member being movable
10 between a locking position and an unlocking position, the locking member preventing movement of the tile engagement member relative to the extension member when the locking member is in the locking position and allowing movement of the tile engagement member relative to the extension member when the
15 locking member is in the unlocking position, the locking member being biased from the unlocking position toward the locking position.

2. An apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein the extension member is both pivotally and slideably movable
20 relative to the tile engagement member when the locking member is in the unlocking position.

3. An apparatus in accordance with claim 2 wherein the

scribe member is pivotally connected to the extension member.

4. An apparatus in accordance with claim 3 wherein the scribe member is pivotally connected to the extension member by a friction connection in a manner such that there is a
5 frictional force that prevents pivotal movement of the scribe member relative to the extension member unless at least a threshold moment between the scribe member and the extension member is applied.

5. An apparatus in accordance with claim 2 wherein the
10 locking member comprises a cam surface and wherein the tile engagement member comprises a cam surface, the cam surface of the locking member engaging the cam surface of the tile engagement member when the locking member is in the locking position in a manner such that the extension member is in
15 clamped engagement with the tile engagement member.

6. An apparatus in accordance with claim 2 wherein the locking member is pivotally movable with the extension member relative to the tile engagement member.

7. An apparatus in accordance with claim 2 wherein the
20 extension member is pivotally movable relative to the tile engagement member about a pivot axis and wherein the locking

member comprises an actuation portion, the actuation portion being movable toward the pivot axis in a manner to move the locking member from the locking position to the unlocking position and being movable away from the pivot axis in a manner to move the locking member from the unlocking position to the locking position.

8. An apparatus in accordance with claim 2 wherein the apparatus further comprises a resilient portion that allows the locking member to resiliently deflect between the locking position and the unlocking position.

9. An apparatus in accordance with claim 8 wherein the locking member is biased from the unlocking position toward the locking position via the resilient portion.

10. An apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein the scribe member is pivotally connected to the extension member.

11. An apparatus in accordance with claim 10 wherein the scribe member is pivotally connected to the extension member by a friction connection in a manner such that there is a frictional force that prevents pivotal movement of the scribe member relative to the extension member unless at least a threshold moment between the scribe member and the extension

member is applied.

12. An apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein the apparatus further comprises a resilient portion that allows the locking member to resiliently deflect between the locking
5 position and the unlocking position, the locking member being biased from the unlocking position toward the locking position via the resilient portion.

13. An apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein the apparatus further comprises first and second actuation portions,
10 the first and second actuation portions each being movable relative to the tile engagement member, the first and second actuation portions also being movable toward each other in a manner to move the locking member from the locking position to the unlocking position and being movable away from each other in
15 a manner to move the locking member from the unlocking position to the locking position.

14. An apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein the locking member comprises a cam surface and wherein the tile engagement member comprises a cam surface, the cam surface of
20 the locking member engaging the cam surface of the tile engagement member when the locking member is in the locking

position in a manner such that the extension member is in
clamped engagement with the tile engagement member.

15. An apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
scribe member consists of a single monolithic member having a
5 straight scribe edge.

16. A method comprising:

providing a surface onto which it is desired to lay tile
up to a boundary perimeter;

providing first, second, and third tiles, the first and
10 second tiles each having a straight edge, the third tile having
first and second straight edges;

securing the first and second tiles to the surface in a
manner such that the edge of the first tile is oriented
generally perpendicular to the edge of the second tile and in a
15 manner defining a portion of the surface that is at least
partially bound by the edge of the first tile, the edge of the
second tile, and the boundary perimeter;

providing a scribing tool, the scribing tool comprising a
scribe member, a tile engagement member, and an extension
20 member, the extension member connecting the scribe member to the
tile engagement member, the extension member being pivotally
connected to the tile engagement member, the tile engagement

member comprising first, second, third, and fourth engagement portions;

aligning the scribe member with a portion of the boundary perimeter;

5 engaging the tile engagement member with the first and second tiles by pivoting the tile engagement member relative to the extension member in a manner such that the first engagement portion of the tile engagement member engages the edge of the first tile and such that the second engagement portion of the
10 tile engagement member engages the edge of the second tile while the scribe member is aligned with the portion of the boundary perimeter;

locking the tile engagement member relative to the extension member in a manner such that the scribe member is
15 fixed in orientation relative to the tile engagement member with the tile engagement member engaged with the first and second tiles as recited and with the scribe member aligned with the portion of the boundary perimeter as recited;

engaging the tile engagement member with the third tile
20 in a manner such that the third engagement portion of the tile engagement member engages the first edge of the third tile and such that the fourth engagement portion of the tile engagement member engages the second edge of the third tile while the tile

engagement member is locked in the fixed orientation relative to the extension member, the first edge of the third tile being separated from the first engagement portion of the tile engagement member by a distance and the second edge of the third tile being separated from the second engagement portion of the tile engagement member by the distance when the tile engagement member is so engaged with the third tile; and

scribing the third tile via the scribe member when the tile engagement member is engaged with the third tile as recited.

17. A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein the step of providing the scribing tool occurs in a manner such that the scribing tool comprises a locking member, the locking member being movable between a locking position and an unlocking position, the locking member preventing movement of the tile engagement member relative to the extension member when the locking member is in the locking position and allowing movement of the tile engagement member relative to the extension member when the locking member is in the unlocking position, the locking member being biased from the unlocking position toward the locking position, the step of engaging the tile engagement member with the first and second tiles by pivoting the tile

engagement member relative to the extension member occurring by exerting a force on the locking member so as to maintain the locking member in the unlocking position, the step of locking the tile engagement member relative to the extension member
5 occurring by releasing the force on the locking member such that the locking member moves into the locking position as a result of the locking member being biased toward the locking position.

18. A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the step of providing the scribing tool further occurs in a manner such
10 that the extension member is slideably connected to the tile engagement member, and wherein the step of engaging the tile engagement member with the first and second tiles further occurs by sliding the tile engagement member relative to the extension member.

15 19. A method in accordance with claim 18 wherein the step of providing the scribing tool further occurs in a manner such that the scribe member is pivotally connected to the extension member, and wherein the step of engaging the tile engagement member with the first and second tiles further occurs by
20 pivoting the scribe member relative to the extension member.

20. A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the step

of providing the scribing tool occurs in a manner such that the scribing tool comprises first and second actuation portions, the first and second actuation portions each being movable relative to the tile engagement member, the first and second actuation portions also being movable toward each other in a manner to move the locking member from the locking position to the unlocking position and being movable away from each other in a manner to move the locking member from the unlocking position to the locking position, the step of engaging the tile engagement member with the first and second tiles comprising exerting a force on the first and second actuation portions so as to cause the first and second actuation portions to move toward each other such that the locking member is in the unlocking position, the step of locking the tile engagement member relative to the extension member comprising releasing the force exerted on the first and second actuation portions so as to allow the first and second actuation portions to move away from each other such that the locking member moves into the locking position as a result of the locking member being biased toward the locking position.

21. A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein the step of providing the scribing tool further occurs in a manner such that the scribe member is pivotally connected to the extension

member, and wherein the step of engaging the tile engagement member with the first and second tiles further occurs by pivoting the scribe member relative to the extension member.

22. A method in accordance with claim 21 wherein the step
5 of providing the scribing tool occurs in a manner such that the scribing tool comprises a locking member, the locking member being movable between a locking position and an unlocking position, the locking member preventing movement of the tile engagement member relative to the extension member when the
10 locking member is in the locking position and allowing movement of the tile engagement member relative to the extension member when the locking member is in the unlocking position, the locking member being biased from the unlocking position toward the locking position, the step of engaging the tile engagement
15 member with the first and second tiles by pivoting the tile engagement member relative to the extension member occurring by maintaining a force on the locking member so as to maintain the locking member in the unlocking position, the step of locking the tile engagement member relative to the extension member
20 occurring by releasing the force on the locking member such that the locking member moves into the locking position as a result of the locking member being biased toward the locking position.

23. A method in accordance with claim 22 wherein the step of providing the scribing tool occurs in a manner such that the scribing tool comprises first and second actuation portions, the first and second actuation portions each being movable relative to the tile engagement member, the first and second actuation portions also being movable toward each other in a manner to move the locking member from the locking position to the unlocking position and being movable away from each other in a manner to move the locking member from the unlocking position to the locking position, the step of engaging the tile engagement member with the first and second tiles comprising exerting a force on the first and second actuation portions so as to move the first and second actuation portion toward each other such that the locking member is in the unlocking position, the step of locking the tile engagement member relative to the extension member comprising releasing the force exerted on the first and second actuation portions so as to allow the first and second actuation portions to move away from each other such that the locking member moves into the locking position as a result of the locking member being biased toward the locking position.

24. A method in accordance with claim 21 wherein the step of providing the scribing tool further occurs in a manner such

that the extension member is slideably connected to the tile engagement member, and wherein the step of engaging the tile engagement member with the first and second tiles further occurs by sliding the tile engagement member relative to the extension member.

25. A method comprising:

providing a scribing tool, the scribing tool comprising a scribe member, a tile engagement member, an extension member, and a locking member, the extension member connecting the scribe member to the tile engagement member and being movably connected to the tile engagement member, the locking member being movable between a locking position and an unlocking position, the locking member preventing movement of the tile engagement member relative to the extension member when the locking member is in the locking position and allowing movement of the tile engagement member relative to the extension member when the locking member is in the unlocking position, the locking member being biased from the unlocking position toward the locking position;

moving the extension member relative to the tile engagement member by applying a force causing the locking member to move out of the locking position and into the unlocking

position; and

releasing the applied force on the locking member in a manner such that the locking member moves out of the unlocking position and into the locking position as a result of the
5 locking member being biased from the unlocking position toward the locking position.

26. A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein the step of moving the extension member relative to the tile engagement member occurs in a manner such that the extension member pivots
10 and slides relative to the tile engagement member.

27. A method in accordance with claim 26 wherein the method further comprises a step of pivoting the scribe member relative to the extension member.

28. A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein the
15 method further comprises a step of pivoting the scribe member relative to the extension member.

29. A method in accordance with claim 28 wherein the step of pivoting the scribe member relative to the extension member comprises applying a moment between the extension member and the
20 scribe member that is sufficient to overcome a threshold moment caused by friction that otherwise prevents pivotal movement

between the extension member and the scribe member.

30. A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein the step of moving the extension member relative to the tile engagement member occurs in a manner such that the extension member pivots
5 relative to the tile engagement member, and wherein the step of moving the extension member relative to the tile engagement member occurs in a manner such that the locking member pivots with the extension member relative to the tile engagement member.

10 31. A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein the step of providing the scribing tool occurs in a manner such that the extension member is pivotally connected to the tile engagement member and such that the tile engagement member comprises first, second, third, and fourth engagement portions, the method
15 further comprising the steps of:

providing a surface onto which it is desired to lay tile thereonto up to a boundary perimeter;

providing first, second, and third tiles, the first and second tiles each having a straight edge, the third tile having
20 first and second straight edges;

securing the first and second tiles to the surface in a manner such that the edge of the first tile is oriented

generally perpendicular to the edge of the second tile and in a manner defining a portion of the surface that is at least partially bound by the edge of the first tile, the edge of the second tile, and the boundary perimeter;

5 aligning the scribe member with a portion of the boundary perimeter and with the first and second tiles secured to the surface as recited;

engaging the tile engagement member with the first and second tiles by pivoting the tile engagement member relative to the extension member in a manner such that the first engagement portion of the tile engagement member engages the edge of the first tile and such that the second engagement portion of the tile engagement member engages the edge of the second tile while the scribe member is aligned with the portion of the boundary perimeter;

locking the tile engagement member relative to the extension member in a manner such that the scribe member is fixed in orientation relative to the tile engagement member with the tile engagement member engaged with the first and second tiles as recited and with the scribe member aligned with the portion of the boundary perimeter as recited;

engaging the tile engagement member with the third tile in a manner such that the third engagement portion of the tile

engagement member engages the first edge of the third tile and such that the fourth engagement portion of the tile engagement member engages the second edge of the third tile while the tile engagement member is locked in the fixed orientation relative to the extension member, the first edge of the third tile being separated from the first engagement portion of the tile engagement member by a distance and the second edge of the third tile being separated from the second engagement portion of the tile engagement member by the distance when the tile engagement member is so engaged with the third tile; and

scribing the third tile via the scribe member when the tile engagement member is engaged with the third tile as recited.

32. A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein the step of providing the scribing tool occurs in a manner such that the tile engagement member comprises an L-shaped protrusion that forms the first, second, third, and fourth engagement portions.

33. A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein the step of moving the extension member relative to the tile engagement member occurs in a manner such that the locking member resiliently deflects.

34. A method in accordance with claim 33 wherein the step of providing the scribing tool occurs in a manner such that the locking member is biased from the unlocking position toward the locking position solely by the resilient deflection of the
5 locking member.